(b) if so, what schemes and programmes were launched there under; and

(c) whether any provisions for old age care homes and for maintenance and care of the old destitutes are contemplated under the programme?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) Yes, Sir, the International Day of the Elderly People was observed on October 1, 1994.

(b) and (c) The Central Government is implementing a Central Sector scheme for providing assistance to the voluntary organisations for Programmes relating to Welfare of Aged. Under this scheme voluntary organisations are given grant-in-aid for running Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres, Mobile Medicare Units and Non-institutional Services for the Welfare of the Aged. The scheme aims at providing physical, social, emotional, psychological, and economic support to the Aged (60 years and above) with a view to help them to continue to be usefully active members of the community.

Disabled persons

3091. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of disabled persons in the country State-wise;

(b) what steps Government have taken so far to protect the interests of the disabled persons in the country;

(c) whether there is any proposal to introduce a suitable legislation for the protection of rights of the disabled persons; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) The National Sample Survey Organisation conducted a sample survey of physically handicapped persons during its 47th round (July-December 1991). This survey covered disabilities viz visual, communication (hearing and or speech) and locomotor. A Statement showing distribution of disabled persons per thousand by degree of disability separately for rural and urban areas alongwith estimated number of disabled persons for 17 major States and All-India level based on the 47th round is placed at Annexure-I (*See* Appendix 173, Annuexure No 64)

(b) Information is placed at Statement (*See* below).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The details are being finalised.

Statement

The primary responsibility for the welfare and upliftment of the handicaped rests with the State Governments. However, in its coordinating and pace-setting role, the Centre has been assisting the State Govrenments as well as the voluntary organisations in programmes designed for rehabilitation of the handicapped. The Central Government has set up of following four National Institutes as apact level organisations in their respective areas of disabilitys—

(1) National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun;

(2) National Institute for the Orthopaedically Handicapped. Calcutta;

(3) Ali Yavar Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, Bombay;

(4) National Institute for the Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad.

In addition to these the following two Institutions have been set up for providing general services to the handicapped person:—

(1) Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi.

(2) National Institute of Rehabilitation, Training and Research, Cuttack, Orissa.

Besides, the Central Government is implementing the following major schemes programmes for education, training and rehabilitation of handicapped:—

(i) Assistance to Organisations for the Disabled— 90 per cent grant is given (95 per cent for rural areas);

(ii) Assistance to Organisations for Rehabilitation of Leprosy Cured persons—Grant is given upto the extent of 90 per cent;

(iii) Assistance to Organisations for establishment of Special Schools —grant is given upto 90 per cent;

(iv) Scheme of Assistance for purchase of Aids and Appliances— Grant is given upto the extent of 90 per cent;

Scheme of Assistance in the Field for Manpower Development in the field of Cerebral Palsy and Mental Retardation—grant is given upto extent of 100 per cent.

(vi) 3 per cent vacancies has been reserved for physically handicapped-1 per cent each for the visual, hearing and orthopaedicaly handicapped in Group 'C' and 'D' posts in Central Government and comparable posts in Central Public Undertakings.

(vii) 23 Special Employment Exchanges and 55 Special Cells for the handicapped persons have been exclusively to help the handicapped in getting gainful employment. Besides normal employment exchanges also help handicapped persons in finding suitable employment.

(viii) 17 Vocational Rehabilitation Centres, have been set up to assess the ability of the disabled, arrange their training and place them in gainful employment etc.

Use of Harijan and Girijan in Government communications

3032. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued a circular banning the use of the words 'Harijan' and 'Girijan' in Government communications;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the new words which have been instructed to be used in place of the words 'Harijan' and 'Girijan'?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (c) It was represented to the Government by certain organisations/associations working for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes that State Governments/U.T. Administrations were using the words 'Harijan' and Girijan' in official matters, dealings, etc for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes which according to these organisations are derogatory words.

The matter was examined and a circular dated 16th August, 1990 was issued indicating that for all official transactions, matters, dealings, certificate; the Constitutional terms of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in English and their appropriate translations in other Indian Languages should alone be used for denoting the persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled